

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 252150Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6262

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY MADRID

USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T OTTAWA 1531

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, SP, CA

SUBJ: SPAIN AND NATO

REF: STATE 091998

1. IN REPRESENTATION MADE TODAY, DCM CARRIED OUT INSTRUCTIONS REFTEL WITH E. P. BLACK, DIRECTOR GENERAL, BUREAU OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, EXTAFF, EMPHASIZING DESIRABILITY OF BRINGING SPAIN MORE CLOSELY INTO NORTH ATLANTIC POLITICAL AND MILITARY FRAMEWORK WITH SOME ALLIED PUBLIC ENDORSEMENT OF SPAIN'S IMPORTANCE TO WESTERN DEFENSE.

2. BLACK RESPONDED THAT GOC RECOGNIZED IMPORTANT OF US-

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SPANISH MILITARY COOPERATION, BUT WAS NEGATIVE ON OTHER

ASPECTS OF BRINGING SPAIN INTO CLOSER RELATIONSHIP WITH NATO. HE CITED ARTICLE XII OF OTTAWA DECLARATION RE-AFFIRMING ALLIES' DEDICATION TO DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES. SPAIN DID NOT QUALIFY AS DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY. AT PRESENT MOMENT, WITH DIVISIVE DISPUTES FACED BY NATO (E.G., GREECE VS TURKEY), IT WAS NOT MOMENT TO INTRODUCE OTHERS. ATTITUDE OF PORTUGAL WAS SERIOUS FACTOR ITSELF, SINCE IT WOULD NOT AGREE TO NATO DISCUSSION OF SUBJECT. PORTUGAL WOULD NOT EVEN ATTEND SUMMIT IF PRESIDENT WERE TO VISIT MADRID. IF SUMMIT WERE TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS AND SOLIDARITY, THEN ANOTHER DIVISIVE ELEMENT HAD TO BE AVOIDED.

3. BLACK SAID KEY WAS TO MAINTAIN SUPPORT OF PEOPLES OF NATO COUNTRIES AND ANY SPANISH CONNECTION REMAINED A PUBLIC PROBLEM IN NORTHERN TIER COUNTRIES. IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO BUGTRESS NATO AS AN ALLIANCE PARTICULARLY WHEN IT WAS SO INVOLVED IN NEGOTIATING AND DEVELOPING DETENTE. WE COULD ONLY SUFFER BY RAISING DOUBTS ABOUT NATO AMONG ALLIED POPULATIONS. WHEN ASKED IF HE WAS REFERRING TO CANADA, HE SAID IT WOULD BE PROBLEM HERE, ALTHOUGH HE WAS SPEAKING PRIMARILY ABOUT EUROPEANS.

4. REFERRING AGAIN TO PORTUGAL, BLACK SAID NOW WAS TIME WE WANT TO ENCOURAGE IT NOT TO GO FROM RIGHT TO LEFT-WING TOTALITARIAN REGIME, BUT TO ENCOURAGE DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT. IT WAS ANOMALOUS NOW TO CONSIDER LINKING ITS NON-DEMOCRATIC NEIGHBOR IN SOME FORMAL ASSOCIATION WITH NATO.

5. BLACK SAID PROBLEM WAS COMPREHENSIVE ONE FOR WESTERN EUROPE, INVOLVING FAR MORE THAN DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS. MEMORIES OF FRANCO'S RECORD WERE VERY LONG. OF COURSE WHEN EUROPEAN CONSENSUS SHOULD CHANGE, CANADA WOULD REASSESS SITUATION. BLACK REPORTED THAT EXTAFF MINISTER MACEACHEN WOULD BE STOPPING IN LISBON TO MAKE PERSONAL ASSESSMENT THERE FOLLOWING HIS CURRENT TRIP TO AFRICA.
JOHNSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COLLECTIVE SECURITY, MEMBERSHIP, ALLIANCE, MILITARY AGREEMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975OTTAWA01531
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750146-1054
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750416/aaaaappec.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 STATE 091998
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <24 SEP 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPAIN AND NATO
TAGS: MARR, PORG, PFOR, SP, CA, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006